



National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

Sequoia & Kings Canyon  
National Parks

47050 Generals Highway  
Three Rivers, CA 93271

559 565-3341 phone  
559 565-3730 fax

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## Sequoia & Kings Canyon National Parks News Release

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Deb Schweizer (559) 565-3703

### Circle Meadow, Segment A, Prescribed Fire Planned

Fire crews plan to begin ignitions on the Circle Meadow Prescribed Fire in Sequoia National Park on Saturday, October 20, weather and air quality conditions permitting. The parks plan to complete the 40 acre unit over a one day period. This project has been segmented as much as is safely possible to mitigate smoke impacts if needed.

Segment B was completed earlier this summer, but the segment A was not completed because of diminishing air quality.

This unit is in Giant Forest south of the Alta Trail, east of the Washington Tree Trail, and north and west of the Circle Meadow Trail.

Giant sequoias are fire adapted and thrive in naturally cycling fire. Fire opens the cones, and releases the tiny seeds to the nutrient rich ash and mineral soil below—ideal conditions for this tree's germination. Fire thins competing vegetation and trees and opens the canopy for this sun-loving species, which allows for these young trees to become established and grow.

This area has been the focus of several prescribed fire projects over the past 30 years, so is considered to be within a natural fire cycle. Historically, natural fires occurred in sequoia forests approximately once every 10-15 years. A regular fire cycle improves forest health by reducing the amount of dead, woody debris that can lead to larger, more intense fires.

Portions of the Alta, Washington Tree, and the Circle Meadow Trails and the entire Bears Bathtub Trail will be closed for this project. See map for details. There are numerous alternative trails accessible to visitors adjacent to the unit and throughout Giant Forest.

Smoke impacts should be minimal will remain localized in Giant Forest during the day. Residents of Three Rivers may experience light smoke in the nighttime and morning hours when the smoke settles with the inversion. Visitors and residents who are sensitive to smoke or have pre-existing respiratory problems should limit their outdoor activities when smoke is present. For more information about how to limit exposure to smoke, please visit <http://www.airquality.org/smokeimpact/>.

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